



**WILLIAM ROCKHILL
NELSON GALLERY OF
ART and MARY ATKINS
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**

GALLERY NEWS

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON TRUST

THE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES

J. C. Nichols

H. V. Jones

R. B. Caldwell

THE STAFF

Director (absent on leave)	Paul Gardner
Acting Director	Ethlyne Jackson
Curator of Oriental Art (absent on leave)	Laurence Sickman
Acting Curator of Oriental Art	Lindsay Hughes
Advisor in European Art	Harold W. Parsons
Honorary Advisor in Oriental Art	Langdon Warner
Junior Education	Mary Louise Clifton
Musical Director	Jane Rosenthal
Registrar	Dorothy Throm
Secretary to Director and Librarian	Louise Lebrecht
Cashier and Sales	Mary Maillard
Superintendent	Clarence Simpson
Gallery Assistant	George Herrick

LECTURES AND GALLERY GUIDANCE

Information concerning scheduled lectures for the month will be found in the following pages. Special talks for groups may be arranged by appointment. Services of a guide may be secured at a fee of twenty cents per person, with a minimum fee of one dollar for an hour's tour. Due to limited personnel at the present time, arrangements should be made in advance.

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Information about enrollment for Saturday and Summer Classes may be obtained from the Director of Junior Education. Saturday afternoon activities especially for children are listed in the calendar.

PUBLICATIONS

Catalogues, handbooks, photographs, postcards, etc., are for sale at the Information Desk to the left of the North Entrance. This News Letter is published once each month, September through June, plus a Summer Issue, and is distributed without charge.

See back page for further information.

G A L L E R Y N E W S

November 1944

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS:

Chinese Street Fair: During November, the three special exhibition rooms on the first floor will continue to vibrate with color, crowded surprises and surprised crowds. When Service for America opened the exhibition on October 4th, a thousand people rushed in to attend that gala affair. Lights and music, shows and shops, it was a large evening with Service for America clearing some \$1100. for the benefit of our soldiers, plus the sale of more than \$400. worth of merchandise for Chinese relief.

The framework of the exhibition came from the Gallery collection: the furniture, rugs, older paintings, costumes, sculpture, bronzes and pottery. But the stacks of porcelain plates and bowls, the intriguing and unusual objects from the Manchu court are lent by Mrs. Harry Hussey of Peking and Plattsburg, who brought them to America in 1940 before the Japanese forced her to abandon her home. Mrs. M.R. Sickman has lent several large boxes of painted and engraved lacquer and a lunch basket which stirs ex-residents of China with nostalgic memories. Harzfeld's display department not only helped paint the two pavilions, but lent the lady's and child's figures, the latter wearing a handsomely brocaded red robe lent by the Metropolitan Museum of New York. Dr. H.J. Boyce of Kansas City, Kansas lent the black hanging embroidered in gold thread which fills the wall of the pavilion.

Miss Wilma Prezzi's glowing oil paintings of Chinese subjects were popular the opening night and succeeding days. The one object in the show which draws the greatest interest from adults and children alike is the Chinese compound by the Gallery's Educational department.

Visitors: The Opening of the Fair was made more entertaining for local visitors by the presence from New York of Miss Wilma Prezzi; Mr. C. T. Loo who lent the architect's model of a Peking palace; and Mr. C.F. Yau who presented Service

for America with four paintings by Miss Ching-chih Yee. From Norfolk, Virginia came the volunteer Director of the Institute of Arts and Sciences, Mrs. William Sloane, an enthusiastic admirer of things Chinese.

Paintings by Albert Bloch: Several small one-man exhibitions by contemporary artists have been planned for Gallery 14, to open on November 1st with the works of Albert Bloch. Mr. Bloch, who is head of the Department of Painting at the University of Kansas, has exhibited before in Kansas City, but his work has not been known as well here as in the East. It is a pleasure to present a small but comprehensive group of the canvases of this most interesting painter.

Albert Bloch was born in St. Louis and received his early training there. After working as illustrator and cartoonist in New York, he went in 1912 to Munich. The ten years that he spent there among the group of young painters known as the "Blaue Reiter" determined the direction in which he would express his sensitive and poetic imagination. In 1922 he returned to teach at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and the next year was appointed head of the Department of Painting at the University of Kansas. Mr. Bloch is represented in a number of private and public collections, including the Phillips Memorial Gallery, Washington; the Chicago Art Institute; and the Columbus Gallery of Art.

Print Rooms: Italian Engravings & Etchings. The art of making multiple paper impressions from a master plate, while known since the 9th Century in China, was only introduced into Europe with the advent of easily obtained paper, probably not before 1410. To enable the visitor to secure a view of the whole development of print-making and to compare the different national styles, the Gallery will present in the coming months a survey of print history throughout the various countries and periods. The first of

these exhibitions will be devoted to Italian prints drawn from the permanent collection.

The earliest Italian Engravings seem to date at least a few years before the middle of the 15th Century. As the technique progressed, it lent itself to the services of the great artists. The first Florentine master actually to use the graver himself was Antonio Pollaiuolo and the only surviving engraving by his hand, the "Battle of the Naked Men" is one of the greatest achievements of this art in the 15th Century. Equally great, though of the northern Italian school, was Andrea Mantegna whose "Battle of the Sea Gods" is also included in the exhibition. Other famous painter-engravers whose work is included - Brescia, Barbari, Mocetto, Canaletto and Tiepolo, - reveal the importance of engraving as a medium of original expression, used for its own inherent and varied qualities.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES - CERAMICS: A History of the Art of the Potter:

The art of fashioning the humble clay of the earth into objects of use and beauty is so old that its origins have become part of the myths and legends of many peoples. For the archaeologist and the art historian, the fragments of clay vessels dug up in the sites occupied by ancient peoples are the "time-bearers" by which the development of a culture may be traced. The shapes, uses and styles of decoration change with environment and cultural advances, but the techniques have remained fundamentally the same since the invention of the potter's wheel. Such changes as have been made are in technical expediency and chemical accuracy rather than basic method.

The first lecture of the series, on November 1st, will demonstrate these techniques and define those terms which are peculiar to the potter's vocabulary. Students from the Ceramics Department of the Kansas City Art Institute will demonstrate the use of the potter's wheel, the coil method, moulding and casting and will display the materials necessary to pottery making.

Miss Jackson, Acting Director, will be "Interpreter" for the demonstration.

With this first lecture as a basis for understanding the technical problems of the potter, the following lectures will take up the uses and aesthetic qualities of ceramics in both the Eastern and Western worlds from earliest times to the present. On November 8th, Miss Lindsay Hughes, Acting Curator of Oriental Art, will discuss the earliest ceramics of the Near East, the wares of Susa with their bodies of fine paste and their painted decorations of geometric or naturalistic designs, the metal-inspired pots from Nihavand and the long-spouted wares from Siyalk. If we believe that the Sumerians of history are related to the producers of the painted pots at Susa in 5000 B.C., it is because the decorations of the latter contain many basic symbols of the religion of the former.

Mr. Harold Woodbury Parsons, European Advisor for the Gallery, will be guest speaker for the lecture on November 15th. He will discuss one of the most beautiful ceramic productions of all time, the pottery of ancient Greece, a subject on which he speaks with authority and enthusiasm. When Mr. Parsons began his career as student and connoisseur, he intended to specialize in the art of the Classical period and while circumstances have led him to broader fields, he has never lost his admiration for it. His talk will also include a brief discussion of the pottery of Egypt.

There will be no lecture on the Wednesday preceding Thanksgiving, but the following week, November 29th, Miss Hughes will return to the Far East with the story of pottery in the Chinese civilization. Beginning with the pre-historic painted pots found in Kansu province and carrying through the sophisticated white pottery of Shang, the first glaze in Chou, the tomb potteries of Han and Wei, the lecture will culminate with the three-color

glazes and proto-porcelain of T'ang.

All lectures are given in the Auditorium at eight o'clock Wednesday evenings with no admission charge.

MOTION PICTURE SERIES SPONSORED BY FOX-MIDWEST THEATRES, INC: It is with great pleasure that the Gallery announces a series of films to be presented under the sponsorship of Fox-Midwest Theatres, Inc. This series, showing the development of the motion picture as an art and entertainment form, is from the Museum of Modern Art Film Library and will include many of the great films of the past quarter century, covering roughly the period from the filming in 1895 of THE EXECUTION OF MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS and QUEEN ELIZABETH with Sarah Bernhardt in 1912 to THE GOOD EARTH in 1937. The fourteen programs will be presented on selected Friday evenings, from November through March and are open to the public free of charge.

Present day audiences attending the lavish Hollywood spectacles in luxurious theatres are prone to forget if they ever knew the beginnings, or so-called "heroic age" of this new art which has grown from its faltering first steps to a universal media presenting the art and cultural thought of various countries. In an exhaustive survey, "The History of the Motion Picture" by Bardèche and Brasillach, the following information is given regarding the inception of the film: "It is one of the peculiarities of this particular art that we can set the date of its birth.... Animated pictures of one kind or another are very ancient and, for a while, the magic lantern had attempted to cater to the public liking for them. The law of the persistence of images was known in antiquity and utilized ever since the 18th Century. Magic Lanterns, optical toys, Chinese shadow shows and the whole repertory of the conjuror and the illusionist are all sources of inspiration which culminated in the film."

Following the discovery of photography by Niépce and Daguerre, attempts were made to add movement to the wonderfully accurate pictures. Experimental contributions by Etienne Marley, Emile Reynaud (perforation of film) Dementy, Edison and Muybridge were finally all co-ordinated by Louis and Auguste Lumière. On February 13, 1895 they patented their first projection machine and on March 28, 1895, the first film, 50 feet long, LUNCH HOUR IN THE LUMIERE FACTORY was shown before the Société d'Encouragement de L'Industrie Nationale. Nine months later, the cinema came into existence.

To re-create the era of the early films, the first presentation of the series on November 3rd will include: THE EXECUTION OF MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS (1895) WASH DAY TROUBLES (1896) A TRIP TO THE MOON (1902) THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY (1903) FAUST (1910) QUEEN ELIZABETH with Sarah Bernhardt (1912). INTOLORENCE, the film which brought to the forefront America's first great director, David Wark Griffith, will be shown on November 10th.

Fox-Midwest Theatres, Inc. are doing an invaluable service to the people of Kansas City and the Gallery in presenting this series and it is to be hoped that many of our patrons will take advantage of this splendid opportunity to follow the history of the motion picture.

MUSICAL PROGRAMS:

On Sunday afternoon, November 5th, Doris Jean Gilman, artist pupil of Verna Brinkley Boyer, will be presented in a piano recital. Her program will include compositions by Beethoven, Pasquet, Fauré and Godard.

Sigma Alpha Iota will give the first of their series of programs on Sunday, November 19th. On the last Sunday in November, Eveline Hartley, instructor in voice at the Kansas City University, will present artist pupils in recital.

A complete listing of the musical programs for November will be found in the calendar.

FRIENDS OF ART STUDY GROUP: At a recent meeting of the Board of Governors of the Friends of Art, a new and slightly different program of meetings was worked out for the Study Group. The group will meet on the first Friday evening of each month at 8 o'clock in the Library or other designated place in the Gallery. A program committee will be appointed to plan an interesting series designed to keep the organization informed about what is going on in the modern art world and, it is hoped, to provoke a lively discussion in which all members will take part.

The first meeting of the series, on November 3rd, will be led by the Submissions Committee, with a report of the work done toward the 1944 purchase, what is available and a review of the trends of American painting today.

JUNIOR EDUCATION: The Saturday afternoon programs for children will be resumed on November 4th when Masterpieces of the Chicago Art Institute will be shown on slides with an accompanying transcribed commentary by Dr. Dudly Crafts Watson. Movie shorts will be the basis for the program on November 11th which will be given by one of the children's classes.

On November 18th, the Gallery will present the H.G.Well's film, "Things to Come". There will be no program on November 25th, the Saturday following Thanksgiving.

These programs, especially arranged for children, begin at two o'clock and are free of charge.

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Nov.

Wed. 1 - 8:00 - Lecture - Pottery Techniques, Miss Jackson

Fri. 3 - 7:45 - Talk - Print Rooms, Italian Engravings, Miss Lebrecht
8:00 - Cinema - Early Films
8:00 - Library - Friends of Art

Sat. 4 - 2:00 - Masterpieces of Chicago Art Institute

Sun. 5 - 3:30 - Concert - Doris Jean Gilman

Wed. 8 - 8:00 - Lecture - Babylonian & Assyrian Pottery, Miss Hughes

Fri. 10 - 1:00 - Library - Hypatia Delphians
7:45 - Talk - Ceramics Room, Wedgwood, Miss Jackson
8:00 - Cinema - Intolerance

Sat. 11 - 2:00 - Program by Children's Class

Sun. 12 - 3:00 - Recorded Music Program

Tues. 14 - 10:00 - Library - Book Club
1:00 - Library - Art Study Club

Wed. 15 - 8:00 - Lecture - Pottery of the Classic Age, Mr. Parsons

Fri. 17 - 7:45 - Talk, Gal. 20 - Chinese Fair, Miss Hughes
8:15 - Concert - Sam Gillam, Bass

Sat. 18 - 2:00 - Cinema - "Things to Come"

Sun. 19 - 3:30 - Concert - Sigma Alpha Iota

Tues. 21 - 2:00 - Library - Asiatic Study Club

Wed. 22 - NO LECTURE

Thurs. 23 - GALLERY CLOSED ALL DAY

Fri. 24 - 1:00 - Library - Hypatia Delphians
NO EVENING OPENING

Sun. 26 - 3:30 - Concert - Pupils of Evaline Hartley

Wed. 29 - 8:00 - Lecture - Chinese Pottery Through the T'ang Dynasty, Miss Hughes

THE LIBRARY

The Library is open to the public by appointment for study purposes. Volumes are not circulated.

SERVICE LOUNGE

A special lounge is maintained for men and women in the armed forces. Books, magazines, and a piano are available. Light refreshments are served on Sunday afternoon. There is no admission charge at any time for people in uniform.

GIFTS TO THE COLLECTION

The greater part of all museum collections has been built up by individual gifts or bequests. Already hundreds of gifts from all over the United States have widened the scope of the Nelson Collection. The Trustees and Director will be pleased to discuss the acceptability of gifts or bequests with those desiring to contribute to the Collection. Gifts of or contributions for contemporary art are especially solicited and would constitute a most noteworthy memorial as the Nelson Funds can be used for purchase of works of art only when the artist has been dead at least thirty years. The Gallery will be glad to give information about the Society of Friends of Art which has been formed by interested patrons for the purpose of purchasing and presenting to the Collection, works by contemporary artists.

The financial cooperation of everyone for such activities as loan exhibitions, courses of lectures, the Library, musical programs, classes for children in art appreciation or the history of art or the peoples of the world as exemplified in the Gallery collections is an urgent need and the Director will be pleased to furnish detailed information.

The legal entity to which gifts should be made is: University Trustees of the William Rockhill Nelson Trust.

WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

KANSAS CITY 2, MO.

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Oct. 1 to May 31:

Same as above except

Wed., 10 a. m. to 5 p. m.; 7 p. m. to 10 p. m.
Friday, 1 p. m. to 5 p. m.; 7:30 p. m. to 10 p. m.

Free days: Saturday, Sunday and public holidays
Wednesday and Friday evenings (Oct. 1 to May 31)

Closed:

All Mondays

New Years, July 4th

Thanksgiving and Christmas

Miss Katherine Parker, Librarian
Baltimore Museum of Art
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